

# Bill attempts to lower textbook prices

## LSUS students' school books may be exempt from state sales tax

by Christine Bradley

Louisiana college students may be getting a small break when it comes to school expenses. If House Bill No. 56 is approved, college textbook purchases will be exempt from all state and local taxes.

Billy Wayne Montgomery, state representative of the Ninth District and author of the bill, said the purpose of House Bill 56 is "to make used and new books less expensive."

"I'm just trying to make it a little easier for the students," said Montgomery.

College textbooks are one of many expenses when attending school. Most classes require students to purchase them, but textbooks can cost anywhere from \$20 to \$400 or more. This situation leaves a number of students unable to compensate for the cost.

"Textbooks are costing more and more every year," said Wayne Waddell, state representative of the Fifth District and co-author of the bill. "Most of them are being published in paperback form and can't even be resold. The



MIKE SCHWALKE

Hundreds of textbooks, just waiting to be purchased, sit in the LSUS Bookstore. If the House passes Bill 56, those textbooks will be much cheaper for LSUS students.

least the state can do is eliminate the sales tax to help cope with the rising costs."

Although professors, students and legislators are likely to support the bill, opinions about its effectiveness vary. The small relief in price may not be enough to inspire students to buy

books.

"The taxes are only a small part of the overall costs, so it seems unlikely to have a huge impact," said Dr. Stephanie Aamodt, professor of biological sciences.

Dr. Lynn Walford, associate professor of Spanish, said there are more students every

semester trying to share books in her class.

"The tax break might not make a huge difference," she said, "but it might be enough to encourage more students to invest in textbooks that they need in order to keep up with their studies."

It would be hard to dis-

"I'm just trying to make it a little easier on the students."

Billy Wayne Montgomery  
State representative

agree with any legislation attempting to lessen the burden of college costs. The support for the bill will likely result in its approval, so students can begin to see a speck of light at the end of the tunnel.

"I believe the bill will gain a lot of support and co-authors as well," said Waddell, "It has an excellent chance of passing both the House and the Senate in this upcoming session and becoming law."

After passing through the House and the Senate, it is up to the governor to approve the bill. Montgomery said that that could be anywhere from April until June of this year.

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Pilots one game out of first



the **Almagest**

Volume 50, Issue 10

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"Almagest" is an Arabic word meaning "great" or "majestic." It is also the title of a book written by the ancient astronomer Ptolemy who is pictured on the front page of our paper.

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**Letters Policy**

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**Corrections**

In Volume 50, Issue 9, Ron Sereg, assistant professor of mass communications, was quoted as saying he teaches propaganda. In reality he teaches COMM 405, which is a class on persuasion and propaganda.

**EDITORIAL****After massacre, the question remains: What next?**

by Mike Schwalke

When I got home from school on Monday night, my answering machine was filled with messages from my friends and family wanting to talk about the massacre at Virginia Tech. My dad is a Hokie; he attended graduate school there. One of my earliest memories is leaving Blacksburg, Va., when I was four years old. I also attended Virginia Tech for a short while, though LSUS is my alma mater.

I do not want to overemphasize my connection with Blacksburg. I think that like with any large tragedy, there is a tendency for people to want to connect with the situation. For example, everybody knows somebody who knows somebody who narrowly escaped death on September 11.

Similarly, there is also a tendency to want to place blame. As of this writing, the blame game has not yet started, but I predict we will see a good deal of microscopic over-analysis in the coming days.

It is important to pay attention to this event. The fallout from it could shape our society's views on higher education and visibly change campuses across the country.

I was working in a Chinese restaurant in Georgia when news of the Columbine massacre broke. I thought that I had gotten out of

high school just in time. But going back into high schools as a substitute teacher over a decade after I graduated, I noticed startling changes. Maybe some of you had to deal with lanyards, metal detectors and locker searches. It didn't used to be like that.

The fact that the deadliest shooting spree in U.S. history happened on a college campus is of particular importance here. Unlike high schools which have a captive and cliquish student body—a formula for violent outbreaks—colleges and universities are inhabited by independent students who are ostensibly adults. Yet colleges and universities are already being inundated with threats from would-be copycats trying to gain a measure of notoriety.

An event of this magnitude, when combined with hyper-vigilant media attention, will eventually affect decision makers. Already, the LSUS administration, Campus Police and Counseling Services have mobilized to make sure they are ready should anything happen on our campus. But what I am wondering is: What happens next?

Will colleges across the country become more secure, like American high schools, with a considerable loss of freedom? Or will this event quickly pass from our minds as we return to business as usual? Both of these outcomes frighten me.

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# CAMPUS NEWS

## Va. Tech shooting spawns review of LSUS crisis plan

by Jeremiah Raab

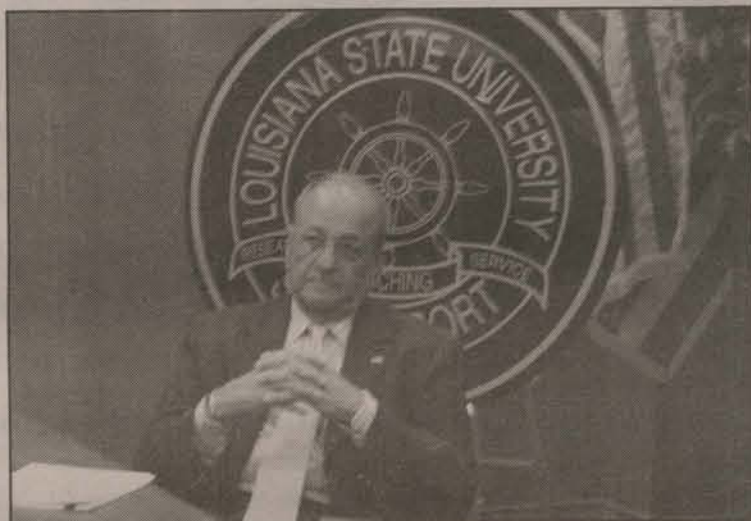
As news about the tragedy in Blacksburg, Va., continues to surface, colleges across the country are probably asking themselves the same question, "How did this happen, and can we stop it from happening next time?" LSUS is no exception.

As early as Tuesday morning, e-mails were sent out to LSUS students and faculty from the University Police Department with information on what to do if a gunman opens fire on campus. University Police, as well as other school organizations, have been busy raising awareness among LSUS students just in case something were to happen here.

"We have to be prepared and we have to be watchful," said Rebecca Chiles, director of University Police. "Anytime anything like this happens...we get everybody together, and we reevaluate what we're doing."

Right now, Chiles said, LSUS is as prepared as it can be. "I do feel comfortable with what we have on hand. We have a good police force, (and) we have good working relationships with other police agencies that would be able to help," she said. "We are trained and equipped to deal with that type of situation."

On Tuesday, the day after the Virginia Tech massacre, all of the LSUS students interviewed shared the same opinions regarding their safety on campus. Stephen Williams, junior political



RODRIGO MONDRAGON

LSUS Chancellor Vincent Marsalla holds a press conference on Tuesday to discuss the university's crisis plan.

science major, summed it up. "You can't really change anything because, I believe, everyday we're in danger and anything can happen," he said.

Even though Chiles is confident in university policies dealing with an incident on campus, she had similar views. "The thing that makes it so hard is that there is not a whole lot of preparation that you can do...to prevent it," she said.

As of Tuesday, Chiles backed up the response of the Virginia police officers. "There's nothing to indicate that anyone could have done anything to prevent that horrible tragedy," she said.

"It was going to happen. With the circumstances that everyone was dealt, everybody did the best they could. We would just hope that we can do the same and just be alert and vigilant."

If an incident were to occur at LSUS, Chiles said the most important thing to do

### IN HONOR OF...

- What: Moment of silence for victims and survivors of the Virginia Tech tragedy.
- When: Today at 10:30 a.m.
- Where: The flagpole at the center of campus.

would be to "protect yourself" at all costs. "If that means to run away, to play dead, whatever you can do to protect yourself...to survive," she said.

Second, she said, students should be good witnesses, citing that information received from students "is crucial for the first responding police officers."

## Campus Briefs

### Latin ladies perform in UC Theatre tonight

The LSUS Spanish Club and local performance group Voces Castellanas are teaming up to explore the life and works of Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges tonight in the UC Theater. Because Borges dealt with themes of both the East and the West in his fiction and poetry, part of the performance will include eastern belly dancing as well as the western tango.

Voces Castellanas is a local group of men and women who seek to promote Spanish language and culture. Lillian Moskeland, instructor of Spanish, is a member of the group and will close the show tonight with a reading of Borges' "Two Kings and Two Labyrinths."

"She was basically the catalyst to get (this event) going," said Mark Hux, president of the LSUS Spanish Club.

Moskeland said that Voces Castellanas is important because the group displays the diversity of Hispanic culture. She said that although Hispanics comprise only a small percentage of the population of Shreveport-Bossier, that population is both growing and becoming more visible.

"My intent was also to promote LSUS," Moskeland said. She said that holding the Spanish-language event on campus will promote diversity and introduce the university to the Hispanic community and vice versa.

Hux, who has yet to see a Voces Castellanas performance, attended a rehearsal last weekend. "It's like a nice, long conversation," he said. "Because (the members of Voces Castellanas are) so passionate, the Spanish they use comes out beautifully."

Hux said that he and the Spanish Club have done radio advertisements on 92.1 FM—the Spanish-language station—to get the word out.

By Mike Schwalke

### Mic available tonight for LSUS students

The LSUS English Club is hosting its second annual Open Mic Night tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the University Court Apartments Clubhouse. Hanna Beatty, president of the English Club, said that the event encourages student writers "to get their stuff out there and get reactions."

She encourages all student writers, whether they write fiction, poetry, essays or songs, to attend the event and try out material and get reactions from an audience. She said the atmosphere would be casual.

Last year, the English club held the event at a local coffee shop. "It was kind of cramped," Beatty said. The clubhouse "is an easier place for people to find."

Garth Owens, vice president of the English club, said that having the event in a coffee shop annoys regulars, most of whom are medical students.

By Mike Schwalke



## Ceremony rewards outstanding students

Over 100 receive  
awards at annual  
LSUS ceremony

by Devin White

The 36th annual Academic Awards Convocation was held in the University Center Theater last Friday. The ceremony recognized over 100 students for their academic excellence in every department at LSUS.

The presentation began shortly after noon with opening remarks from Chancellor Vincent J. Marsala. Provost Stuart E. Mills followed with a speech commending and praising the recipients for their many accomplishments at LSUS.

Under a dimly lit stage, the award presentation began with Dr. Stephen W. Banks, professor of biological sciences, presenting awards to students who made the Chancellor's List.

Helen Taylor, professor of English, continued the event awarding outstanding students from each department.

One sponsored award was given to Sarah Smith, senior, college of business administration. She received the Wall Street Journal Outstanding Student Award.

"It's good to see fellow classmates who I've seen work so hard be recognized," said Derek White, senior, computer science. He received the Outstanding Student of the Year Award for computer science.

After the ceremony concluded, faculty, students and proud family and friends gathered in the UC lobby for refreshments.

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# Maintaining campus appearance lofty task

by Alan Trichell

The sight of trees budding and blooming and the sound of mowers cutting signal the return of spring. With the return of spring come the necessary tasks needed to keep the LSUS campus beautiful. But with the main campus consisting of over 256 acres, with more than 450 oak trees and more than 400 crape myrtles, the job of cutting grass and trimming trees becomes monumental. This job is handled by the Department of Facility Services.

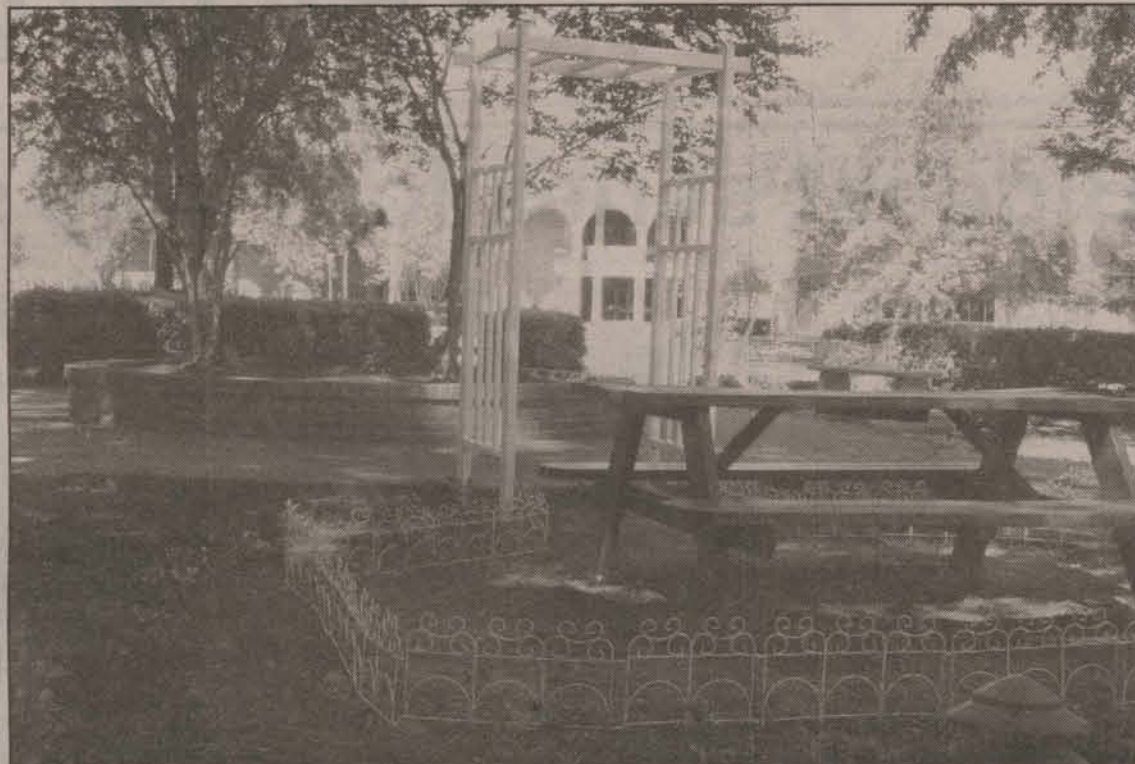
Facility Services consists of five separate sub-departments: custodial, maintenance, power plant utilities, mail services and grounds. It is the grounds department's job to keep up with the cutting of the grass and trimming of the trees. In 1985, before the campus had as many trees as it does now, the grounds department had eight full-time employees. Now the grounds department has only four full-time em-

ployees and two seasonal employees to try to do all the work that needs to be done to keep the campus looking beautiful.

Don Bloxom is the director of Facility Services and is also "an officio" on the Campus Beautification Committee. He does not vote on the committee but is there to update what has been done or is being done and also advise what needs to be done. Bloxom said that it is all his department can do right now just to maintain what they have to do.

"Of course we would like to do more or see more get done, but we unfortunately don't have the resources or manpower right now to do any more," he said. "It is a full time job maintaining what we have to do now."

The Campus Beautification Committee is officially in charge of deciding what to do in regard to keeping, as well as making, the campus beautiful. They have met only one time since last se-



MIKE SCHWALKE

The Biology Club at LSUS is doing something to improve the campus at LSUS. They built a circular garden by the Sciences building.

mester. Bloxom that said at that meeting it was decided to allocate more funding towards bigger and more efficient tree trimming and grass cutting equipment as well as hiring two seasonal employees to help keep up with the cutting and trimming. The committee has no present plans for any further endeavors in campus beautification at this time.

The only thing currently in the works is the Dr. Lacy and Edie Williams Plaza of Excellence which is planned to be finished by the end of September. The Plaza, however, was spearheaded by the Alumni Association and campus development rather than the Campus Beautification Committee.

SGA vice-president Nicole Goad, said that she

would like to see the SGA plant flowers near the fountains in the mall. "I think it would be nice if we could maybe have a rose garden by the fountains as an SGA project," she said. "It would show that the students care and are doing something."

Bloxom said he has no objections but does warn students and organizations to be careful with what projects they do take on.

"I encourage students and campus organizations to get involved," he said, but cautioned that those organizations would also be responsible for maintenance.

The Biology Club has already set a good example by maintaining the circular garden by the Sciences Building. Members of the Biology Club have taken it upon themselves to make a few additions such as benches, vine trellises and bird feeders. It is something that is completely funded and maintained by the Biology Club.



RODRIGO MONDRAGON

Facility Services and other groups on the LSUS campus are doing all they can to keep the university beautiful.



# SPORTS

## Biggest series for Pilots starts tomorrow

by Chrissy Chiri

The LSUS Pilots baseball team is doing just about all they can to stay in contention of the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference title. The Pilots won two out of three last weekend against William Carey College, which puts them one game out of first place in the GCAC.

The Belhaven Blazers hold the first place spot, and have won seven games in a row. The Pilots will travel to Jackson, Miss., this weekend for a face-off against the conference-leading team.

Here's a break-down of what's coming up:

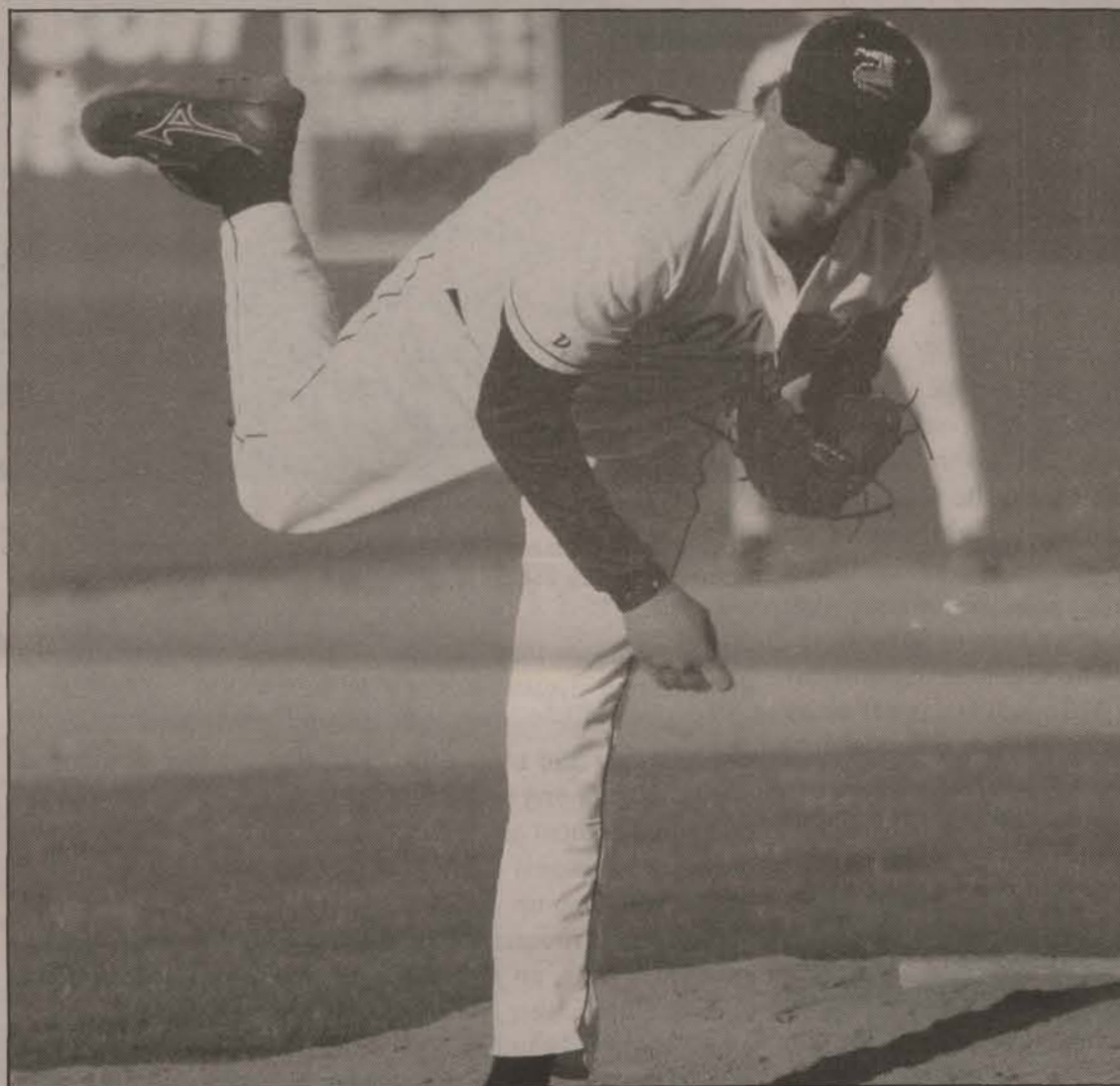
The Pilots have six conference games left — three against Belhaven and three against the University of Mobile. The Rams are a .500 ball club and are in third place in the GCAC; however, the Pilots will play the Rams at Pilot field.

The Blazers also have six conference games left. Three of those are coming up this weekend against LSUS and the remaining three will be against last place team Spring Hill College in Jackson.

Best case scenario for LSUS is that they win all three games in Jackson and take a two-game lead in the GCAC. The Pilots will then have a little bit of breathing room going into the last week of the season.

The winner of the conference not only receives an automatic berth to the regional tournament, but they also receive home field advantage in regionals.

The Pilots played William



CHRISSE CHIRI

**Mark Dainty, junior pitcher for LSUS, picked up his third win of the season on Sunday against William Carey College. Dainty is 3-3 on the season.**

Carey College last weekend and beat the Crusaders in the first two match-ups. Although neither of the games was an easy win, the Pilots bats were hot and the pitching staff threw well so that LSUS was able to pick up the much-needed wins.

Pitchers Matt Clayman and Mark Dainty both got wins off the mound for the Pilots.

Clayman started game one on Friday, and Dainty pitched in relief on Saturday to get a win.

Clayman, a senior, is 7-0

on the year with a 2.95 ERA. Junior Dainty picked up a win Wednesday, April 11, against Division-I team University of Louisiana-Monroe and got his third win on the week after 2 2/3 innings of work against William Carey. He is 3-3 with a 37 strikeouts.

In game one of the series, the Pilots came away with an 11-6 win. The offense erupted for 10 runs in the fourth inning.

In game two, senior pitcher Daniel Welch (6-0) pitched 6 1/3 innings before reliever

Danity came in to pitch. The Crusaders tied things up 6-6 in the fifth inning, which took Welch out of the win position. The Pilots' bats an-

swered in the bottom of the fifth by scoring two runs and moving Dainty as the winning pitcher. The Pilots won that game 9-6.

The Pilots started out in a deficit in game three after starter Juan Leon allowed four runs to score for the Crusaders. Leon, who was struggling with tendinitis in his shoulder, pitched only 2/3 of an inning before junior Paul Marlow relieved him. Although the Pilots kept chipping away, they were not able to outscore William Carey and lost game three by a close score of 10-8.

Junior first baseman Quinton Shamsabody had five RBIs while going six for 12 on the weekend.

Senior shortstop Brandon Magierowski went five for nine in the series with five RBIs.

Senior center fielder Chris Frye went five for 11 with two RBIs; junior designated hitter and catcher Bryan Stebbings went three for 11 with four RBIs; and senior right fielder Colin Moro had four hits in 10 at-bats in the series.

Game one of the series against Belhaven begins tomorrow at 6 p.m.

### GCAC 2007 Baseball Standings

Team	Record	Streak
Belhaven	19-5	Won seven
LSUS	18-6	Lost one
Mobile	12-12	Lost four
William Carey	11-13	Won one
Loyola	7-17	Won two
Spring Hill	5-19	Lost two



# ENTERTAINMENT

## UPCOMING LSUS MOVIE NIGHT SCHEDULE

**April 20 – Charlotte's Web**

**April 26 – Casino Royale**

**May 3 – Pursuit of Happyness**

## UPCOMING LSUS CONCERT SCHEDULE

**April 12 – Student artists**

## Student artwork shines in UC Gallery tomorrow

by **Brittany Harness**

LSUS student artists are now being featured in the University Center in the 2007 Student Art Fair. With a highly-anticipated opening tomorrow between 6 and 8 p.m., pieces of art ranked the highest by art professors will be on display on campus until the end of the semester.

Jason Mackowiak, associate professor of fine arts, said to "expect only the best of the best, not just any and all average work."

Only showcasing the most impressive and highest ranked pieces, the art show will feature work submitted from students who are currently enrolled in, or who were enrolled last semester, in a fine arts class.

"This is to prevent any

outside work done a long time ago from being featured," Mackowiak said.

LSUS offers a variety of art courses, including various levels of drawing, sculpture, acrylic painting, watercolor, art history and ceramics. Graphic design is also a popular major. With one of the largest and best equipped computer graphics labs in the state, graduates of LSUS have gone on to widely recognized and competitive jobs.

Those who attend the event can expect a range of different artwork in each medium.

And while there are no prizes or "best in show" titles awarded, Mackowiak said "there will be refreshments and snacks on the night of the opening."

## Plot, cast lost in 'Pathfinder'

by **Chris Gray**

The worst written film I have ever seen finally makes it to the big screen after being pushed back for release numerous times. "Pathfinder" is the story of a young Viking boy who is orphaned after his father's slave ship is scuttled on the rocks of a river in North America 600 years before Columbus.

Karl Urban ("Lord of the Rings," "Doom") portrays Ghost, the main character of the film with the emotion of a tick. This guy was a decent actor in other films he has starred in, but after seeing him in this film I want to see him vanish from the movie industry. He should pick his future roles more carefully and in the meantime improve his acting skills.

Russell Means, who is predominately a television actor, attempted to show his true ability. Instead he

proved to be another actor who should stick to soap operas instead of major motion pictures. The only thing he did that was believable was hit the peace pipe and cough.

Clancy Brown ("Starship Troopers," "The Guardian") was the best actor in the whole film. He got medieval on some buttocks with his sword and board. He was brutal, sadistic and down right evil. That being said, he brought no redeeming quality to the film. Even though you are supposed to cheer for the good guy in most films, it was not worth it in this film. The good guy sucked, and the bad guys rocked, so I found myself cheering for the Vikings to win so I could go home.

All of the actors in the film were terrible and brought the film down with them.

The director Marcus Nis-

pel showed that he can destroy a film with his inadequate directing ability. He did use good camera angles and special effects but at the same time he destroyed the film with lack of story, emotion, depth of plot and the most important thing, strong character development. There was no explanation for anything.

The director never once explained why Ghost is this supposed chosen one or prophetic child who will save the Native American people. He never once explained the background of any of the characters. If there was a plot to the film, it was lost on me. All I got was that some Native Americans fight some big burly Vikings, and death and decapitations ensue and that's the entire plot. This film will make you want to blind yourself with a red hot poker it is so bad.

## Jazz Band Performs



RODRIGO MONDRAGON

The LSUS Jazz Band performed during Common Hour on Tuesday in the Port. The band is composed of LSUS students and teachers. John Frazier takes a solo during the show.



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Mike Pizzolato

Bert Stroud, the Anthropologist

By: Mike Schwalke and Diego Tripodi



## LSUS Sports Schedule

Friday, April 20

6 p.m.

LSUS at

Belhaven College\*

(baseball)

Saturday, April 21

1 p.m.

LSUS at

Belhaven College\*

(baseball double-header)

Tuesday, April 24

1 p.m.

LSUS at

Northwood University

(baseball double-header)

Friday, April 27

6:30 p.m.

University of Mobile at LSUS\*

(baseball)

Saturday, April 28

1 p.m.

University of Mobile at LSUS\*

(baseball double-header)

Wednesday, May 2

TBA

Gulf Coast Atlantic

Conference Tournament in

Mobile, Ala.

(baseball)

\* asterisk denotes  
conference game